



Old Paddington — or at any rate Paddington in the late 18th century, must have been a charming spot. Of the two main thoroughfares, Bayswater and Edgware Roads, neither was built up. There were clusters of buildings down by Tyburn, at Queen Street, and Chapel Street, for example, with a block of buildings in Bayswater Road in front of the Buzynj Ground, a bowling green in Edgware Road just a little way up on the left from Tyburn. There were old inns dotted about — the Wheatsheaf in Edgware Road, the Swan in Bayswater Road, the Red Lion somewhere about the junction of Edgware and Harrow Road. Quiet

places, with a mounting block outside.

The Westbourne Brook was still open to the sky, and ran through fields — grass and trees mostly I think, not crops. Near St. Mary's Church — then newly rebuilt on its eminence — was a pond, and Harrow Road curved prettily round it, with a view in the background of the little hill up by what is now Lord's Cricket Ground. Feathering trees grew in a clump. The village stores were hard by. Just such a village as one might ^{have} seen in Kent up to a few years ago — minus the stores of course.

Bayswater was famous for its Watercress beds, — hence the name.

A reservoir existed ~~where~~ and the names Spring Street and Conduit News ^{in the vicinity} ~~commemorate~~ perpetuate its memory.